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Paw Paw's Christmas in the Village a Big Hit

Downtown Paw Paw's Christmas in the Village, held Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, saw the first ever nighttime Lighted Christmas parade and Tree Lighting ceremony Friday night. This year, the north grounds of the Van Buren County Courthouse served as the site for the Tree Lighting ceremony. Roman and Ava Plaszczak were parade Grand Marshals, while Paul DeYoung was honored prior to the parade as the inaugural recipient of the Community Ambassador Award. Paw Paw High School's Voices of the Future provided holiday musical selections on the courthouse steps following the tree lighting.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

A new feature this year during Downtown Paw Paw's Christmas in the Village was Kringle Town, located on Paw Paw Street, on the north side of the Van Buren County Courthouse. It featured old-world charm and handcrafted gifts in wooden market houses donated by Meyer Wood Products. A pair of Belgian horses provided wagon rides to Christmas in the Village attendees on Saturday. An ice sculptor spent several hours Saturday morning and early afternoon carving Christmas in the Village 2025 from a large block of ice.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Santa kept busy Saturday, appearing in photos with children and families at The Carnegie Center, downtown Paw Paw. The Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce office was the site of a face painter and a variety of crafts for youngsters to make while there.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul; Garrod

Some of the many Lighted Christmas Parade participants included the Paw Paw American Legion, and Paw Paw Public Schools Transportation Department, who captured top honors with its lighted school bus. Other entries include the Van Buren County Road Commission with its snowplow truck and painted plow featuring Peanuts' cartoon characters, Charlie Brown and Snoopy, and an entry from the Paw Paw Alumni Association. At the conclusion of the parade, Santa Claus made his grand entry on Michigan Avenue, waving to parade goers who braved the chilly temperatures.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod
Paw Paw Alumni Assoc. photo/Courtesy Paw Paw Public Schools

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Commissioners set public hearing for County parks and recreation plan

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – On Dec. 9, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approved the release of the draft of the Van Buren County 2026–2030 Parks and Recreation Plan for a 30-day public review period, and scheduled a public hearing for Jan. 13, 2026, at 12:50 p.m. in the Donald Hanson Board of Commissioners Room.

The final version of the 2026–2030 Parks and Recreation Plan will be presented to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners for formal adoption at its regular meeting on Jan. 27, 2026, thereby ensuring timely submission to the DNR by the Feb. 1, 2026, deadline.

Adoption of the plan is essential for maintaining eligibility for valuable state and federal grant opportunities.

Van Buren County is required to maintain a current five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to remain eligible for grant funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other related programs.

In early 2025, Van Buren County contracted with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) to facilitate the development of the 2026–2030 Parks and Recreation Plan, incorporating public input, community surveys, and stakeholder collaboration.

The Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission received the final draft of the 2026 - 2030 Parks and Recreation Plan on Nov. 13, 2025, and voted to forward the plan to the Board of Commissioners for public review and consideration.

In accordance with DNR requirements, the county must now release the draft plan for a 30-day public review period, with appropriate public notice and an opportunity for written public comment. The county must also hold a public hearing prior to final adoption of the plan.

In another area, commissioners approved the reappointment of George Saleeby to the Kinexus Workforce Development Board for a term set to expire on Dec. 31, 2028.

Saleeby currently serves as a member of the Kinexus Workforce Development Board with a term set to expire on Dec. 31, 2025. Saleeby expressed his willingness to continue serving and has submitted the required application for re-appointment to the board.

Each term on the Kinexus Workforce Development Board is for a period of three years, and Saleeby's re-appointment would be effective Jan, 1, 2026, and extend through Dec. 31, 2028.

The Kinexus Workforce Development Board plays a critical role in supporting workforce development initiatives across the region, serving as a key partner in identifying employment needs and developing training opportunities.

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Rick Catherman to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a term set to expire on Dec. 21, 2027.

Catherman is a current representative on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, with his current term set to expire on Dec. 21, 2025. Catherman expressed interest in continuing his service on the SWMPC and has been recommended for reappointment based on his ongoing contributions and experience. The term of service on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is for a period of two years, and Catherman's reappointment would be effective immediately upon expiration of his current term, extending through Dec. 21, 2027

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) serves as a regional planning body that supports coordinated planning, transportation development, and resource management efforts for the region.

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Zachary Morris and Todd Hackenberg to the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority for a term set to expire on Dec. 31, 2028.

Morris and Hackenberg currently serve as members of the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority, with their respective three-year terms set to expire on Dec. 31, 2025. Both Morris and Hackenberg have expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Land Bank Authority and have demonstrated dedication to the Authority's mission and operations.

The Van Buren County Land Bank Authority exists to acquire, manage, and repurpose underutilized, tax-reverted, and blighted properties to support community revitalization and economic development throughout Van Buren County.

Commissioners approved setting the 2026 organizational meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at 1 p.m.

In accordance with the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners' By-Laws, the board is required to hold an organizational meeting at its first regular meeting each calendar year for the purpose of electing officers and conducting any other appropriate business.

The organizational meeting typically includes the election of the board chair and vice chair, the adoption of the board's by-laws, the assignment of commissioners to outside and liaison positions, and the adoption of the annual board meeting schedule.

For the 2026 organizational meeting, a new component will be included - inviting department directors to provide brief updates on their departments, including major accomplishments from 2025 and high-level goals for 2026.

The county has reviewed and evaluated compensation for non-union employees and elected officials considering ongoing efforts to ensure internal equity, market competitiveness, and operational sustainability.

It is proposed that non-union employees and elected officials receive an annual wage increase of three percent for each calendar year 2026, 2027, and 2028. This proposed increase is consistent with adjustments negotiated with represented bargaining units, promoting consistency and fairness in compensation practices across the county workforce.

All eligible non-union employees and elected officials shall continue to be allowed to participate in fringe benefit programs as provided to other bargaining units within Van Buren County.

The financial impact of these increases has been reviewed and incorporated into the county's long-term budget planning and fiscal projections.

Commissioners approved a three percent annual wage increase for non-union employees and elected officials for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

The county has concluded negotiations with the Dispatch Unit within the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, resulting in a Collective Bargaining Agreement for a three-year contract covering the period of 2026 through 2028.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reviewed, finalized, and ratified the union, and reflects updates designed to meet current operational needs, remain competitive in the labor market, and aligns with internal comparability efforts being implemented across county departments.

The agreement includes annual wage increases of three percent for 2026, 2027, and 2028, as well as language clarifications and other mutually agreed-upon provisions that support consistency, fairness, and effective contract administration.

The financial implications of this agreement have been evaluated and integrated into the county's long-range budget planning. Costs related to the agreement will be absorbed by the General Fund and/or applicable departmental grants and millages based on position and funding sources.

Commissioners approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the county and the Dispatch Unit of the Sheriff's Office for the term of Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

The county has completed negotiations with the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) – Deputies bargaining unit, resulting in a Collective Bargaining Agreement for the term of 2026 through 2028.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union and reflects changes that align with the county's operational needs, labor market conditions, and internal comparability initiatives. The agreement includes annual wage increases of three percent for each year of the contract term, clarifying language revisions, and other mutually agreed-upon provisions that support contract consistency and equitable employment practices.

The financial impact of this agreement has been thoroughly reviewed and incorporated into the county's ongoing budget planning. All associated costs will be funded through the General Fund and/or applicable departmental grants and millages, based on job classification and funding eligibility.

Commissioners approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the county and the POLC – Deputies bargaining unit for the contract term of Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

The county has completed negotiations with the Prosecuting Attorney's Legal Secretaries Association, resulting in tentative agreements for the contract term of 2026 through 2028.

The Tentative Agreements have been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union, and reflect modifications that align with operational goals, current labor market trends, and internal comparability efforts being implemented across county departments.

The agreements include annual wage increases of three percent for each year of the contract term, as well as updated and clarified language and other mutually agreed-upon revisions intended to promote consistency, fairness, and effective contract administration.

The financial impacts of these changes have been evaluated and incorporated into the county's ongoing budget planning process. The costs associated with implementing the Tentative Agreements will be supported by the General Fund and/or applicable grants and millages, depending on the position and bargaining unit.

Commissioners approved the Tentative Agreements between the county and the Prosecuting Attorney's Legal Secretaries Association for the period of Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

The county has concluded negotiations with the Court Association, resulting in Tentative Agreements for a three-year term covering 2026 through 2028.

The Tentative Agreements have been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union and reflect changes aligned with operational needs, current labor market conditions, and internal comparability initiatives.

The agreements include annual wage increases of three percent for each year of the contract term, clarifying language revisions, and other mutually agreed-upon modifications that promote consistency and fairness across collective bargaining agreements.

The financial implications of these agreements have been assessed and incorporated into the county's budget planning processes. All associated costs will be absorbed through the General Fund and/or applicable departmental grants and millages, as appropriately based on job classification and funding sources.

Commissioners approved the Tentative Agreements between the county and the Court Association for the contract term of Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

The county concluded negotiations with the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's Association, resulting in Tentative Agreements for the 2026–2028 contract period. The Tentative Agreements have been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union and reflect mutually agreed-upon modifications that align with county operational priorities, current labor market conditions, and internal comparability objectives.

The agreements include annual wage increases of three percent for each year from 2026 through 2028, clarification of contract language, and other adjustments intended to enhance contract consistency, equity, and administration.

The financial impact of these changes has been reviewed by administration and incorporated into the county's long-term budget planning.

Costs associated with the Tentative Agreements will be funded through the General Fund and, where applicable, through departmental grants and millages, depending on specific roles within the bargaining unit.

Commissioners approved the Tentative Agreements between the county and the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's Association for the term of Jan.1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

Commissioners approved out-of-state travel for three Van Buren County employees to attend a professional development conference hosted by the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD). The conference, "We the Defenders," is specifically designed for non-attorney public defense staff, including social workers, office managers, and legal specialists, to enhance their knowledge, skill sets, and effectiveness in supporting public defense services.

The employees will attend the conference in Indianapolis, Ind., from Dec.15 -17, 2025, and will stay at the Marriott Downtown during the duration of the conference, driving themselves in their personal vehicles.

There is no cost to the county for this trip, as all associated expenses - including mileage reimbursement, registration fees, and lodging - have been pre-approved and will be fully funded by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC).

Commissioners approved the out-of-state travel request for one social worker, one office manager, and one legal specialist to attend the National Association for Public Defense Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., from Dec. 15–17, 2025.

Road Commissioners of Van Buren County are appointed by the County Commissioners of Van Buren County and, therefore, pursuant to Statute each Road Commissioner represents the County as a whole.

County Commissioners will try to appoint a Road Commissioner from each District throughout the county so that each "area" is represented; however, each road commissioner represents the county at large.

The Road Commission has requested the Board of Commissioners to approve a set of Communication Guidelines to improve customer service. Road Commissioners believe that through utilizing these guidelines, increased intra-agency cooperation will occur, as well as more efficient interactions between the townships, its residents, and the Van Buren County Road Commission. The continued goal of the Board of County Commissioners is to work as partners in transportation to best serve the residents of Van Buren County, therefore approve and adopt the guidelines.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Lawton Village approves rezoning request for Pin High Golf Course

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON - On Tuesday, Dec. 9, the Lawton Village Council approved an ordinance that would rezone Pin High Golf Course from a residential zone to commercial and allow the golf course to proceed with its site plan that would include a club house and a restaurant with a liquor license.

Lawton Village Council President Josh Appleby brought Ordinance 06-2025 to the floor for discussion. This ordinance was recommended by the Planning Commission and would allow the rezoning requested by Rezone Pin High Golf Course.

The Lawton Village Council approved Ordinance 06-2025 rezoning request in a unanimous roll call vote, with none opposed.

In another area, the village council approved a motion to cancel the second meeting in December due to the proximity to Christmas, (Dec.23).

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg said that Lawton Village Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25-26, in observance of Christmas, and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1-2 in observance of the new year. Due to Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Thursday, Lawton Village Council member Judith Peterson recommended closing early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, allowing employees a few hours of personal time.

The village council approved a motion in a voice vote with no one opposed to allowing the holiday trade.

Village Manager Hackenberg told the village council and others that he is now sending out weekly reports to the village council. He also provided an update with Kalin Construction on the Main Street trees. A meeting has been scheduled for March of 2026 to review items that need to be repaired in the spring.

Lawton Village Clerk Brittany Rathbun told the village council and others that final rental registration notices were recently sent out. Owners of rental homes have until Jan. 1 to register their rental units to avoid the potential $1,000 fine.

Lawton Village Police Chief Greg Cordes said police radios are set for encryption. There is now a hard-set date due to federal law by Oct. 2026, and the village is ahead of this mandate.

The village council approved a motion to ask Village Manager Hackenberg to review to review the village rescinding its easement behind Oak Grove Cemetery on Sheila Motycka's property to make improvements to the property.

Kalli Marshall from the Van Buren Conservation District told the village council and others that a public material management survey was recently posted on their website. The survey is seeking input from the region to help with goal setting. Monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month beginning in January.

The village council renewed an employment contract between Village Manager Hackenberg and the Village of Lawton.

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SHAES to acquire new fire boat

Presenting $2,000 grant, left to right: Linda Teeter, Chief Brandon Hinz, Mary Fitzgerald, Shelley Ammerman, Patti Sheey, Vicki Reid Olson.

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) will be bolstering its water rescue capabilities.

The SHAES Authority Board recently approved the $400,000 purchase of a new fire boat to enhance water-based fire suppression, rescue, and dive response capabilities. When it is put into service in 2027 it will replace a 26-year-old (1999) Zodiac vessel, according to Chief Brandon Hinz.

The area served by SHAES includes approximately 10 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline (Van Buren State Park north to Casco Township). In addition, there are over 1,000 boats in the South Haven harbor and along the Black River during the summer months.

The new vessel is a 28-foot Sounder manufactured by North River Boats of Roseburg, Oregon, and will be specially equipped to serve the SHAES Dive Team and have a 500-GPM pump to support marine and shoreline fire suppression.

Through a favorable manufacturer discount from North River, SHAES was able to bring the cost of the new boat within the Authority's Capital Replacement budget, Hinz said.

To support rapid deployment and response times, the City of South Haven has generously offered dock space near the City North Marina, an optimal location for emergency operations on Lake Michigan. The current boat is trailered and needs to be launched before responding to emergencies.

Due to the dock's exposure to channel swell and surge, a boat lift will be required to protect the vessel, extend its service life, and ensure long-term reliability. While the fireboat was budgeted, the lift itself was not included in the capital plan.

The American Legion Post 49 Auxiliary recently contributed $2,000 toward the $30,000 boat lift. Fundraising efforts are continuing toward the lift, according to Hinz.

"We are pleased to honor the service SHAES provides our community each and every day," said Mary Fitzgerald, Auxiliary President. "SHAES provides vital services to our communities every day, most often assisting veterans and their families in time of need."

The current SHAES fireboat responding to a call.

Example of new fire boat being acquired.

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String of county break-ins lead to Kalamazoo apartment

Detectives from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office (VBCSO) are narrowing in on suspects behind a string of vehicle break-ins and thefts across several communities in West Michigan.

The multi-agency investigation led law enforcement into Kalamazoo after tracking a child's stolen iPad to Fox Ridge Apartments, according to VBCSO.

VBCSO deputies are investigating 13 vehicle break-ins reported across the Village of Bloomingdale, Bloomingdale Township, Columbia Township, and Waverly Township in recent days, according to VBCSO Undersheriff Casey Davis.

"We took a handful of larcenies from motor vehicles, and because of how many there were, we worked a joint investigation with Michigan State Police (MSP)," Davis said.

Davis said that the break-ins are primarily targeting unlocked vehicles in neighborhoods.

"It's a crime of opportunity," Davis said. "They're targeting neighborhoods because they can hit a lot of vehicles at the same time."

Among items reported stolen from the spree include a child's iPad, keys to vehicles, and a firearm, Davis said.

The firearm and keys to vehicles remain unaccounted for, and no suspects have been identified at this time; however, the iPad may prove crucial in solving the case, according to VBCSO.

Using the iPad's location tracking, law enforcement was led to Fox Ridge Apartments in Kalamazoo where MSP investigators reportedly found the iPad in plain sight inside a vehicle believed to be used in the thefts.

The vehicle had been reported stolen from Kalamazoo, according to investigators, and was left running in the parking lot, providing potential clues.

Sheriff's office welcomes new K-9

PAW PAW - The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has announced the addition of its newest K-9 team member "Charlie," who will be partnered with Deputy Cody Bingaman. The new K-9 unit will enhance the Sheriff's Office's capabilities in community safety, criminal investigations, and emergency response.

K-9 Charlie is a 1 ½ year old German Shepard from Poland, specially trained in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension, article searches. The team recently completed an intensive training program at FM K9 in Berrien Center, Michigan, where they demonstrated exceptional performance and received certification through the International Police Work Dog Association

Lieutenant Tony Evans, who oversees the K-9 Units for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, said, "Deputy Cody Bingaman was selected as the new K-9 handler after an extensive selection process was conducted and with the addition of K-9 Charlie the Sheriff's Office will now have three canines serving the community

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott, said, "We are thrilled to welcome K-9 Charlie to our agency. This K-9 will play a critical role in keeping our community safe, supporting our deputies, and strengthening our emergency response capabilities. We are confident that Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie will make an outstanding team."

He concluded, "The Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit is a vital component of local law enforcement efforts, assisting in high-risk operations, search-and-rescue missions, and proactive community engagement. K-9 Charlie will also be present at upcoming community events and demonstrations, helping build positive relationships between law enforcement and the public."

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Applications will be available beginning on January 2, 2026 at 8:00 AM on the Mattawan Consolidated School website at www.mattawanschools.org. Interested persons may also request an application be mailed by contacting Leslie Swintz at 269-668-3361 Ext. 1771 or via email at LSwintz@mattawanschools.org. The deadline for applications to be received at Mattawan Consolidated School is Friday, January 16, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

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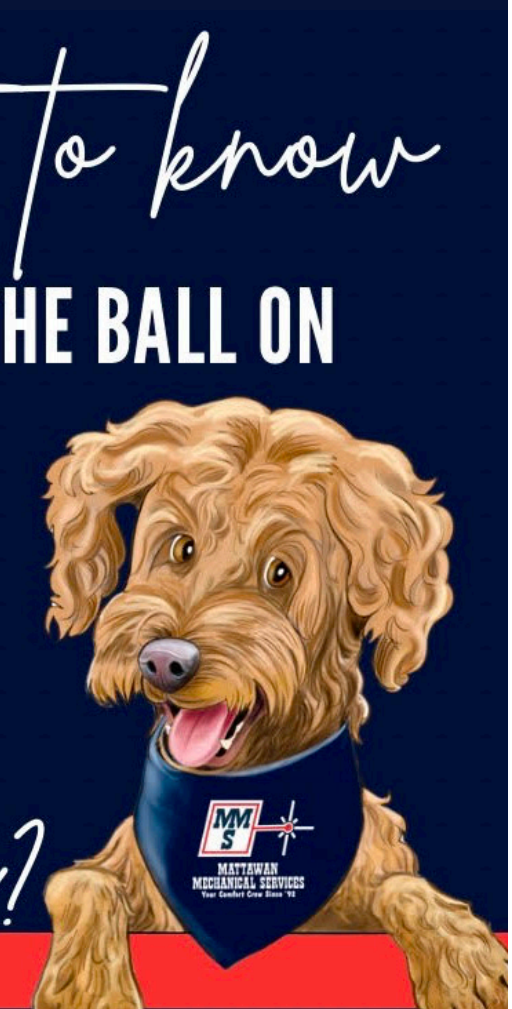

Lawton celebrates with parade, tree lighting

The Village of Lawton held its Christmas in the Village on Friday night, Dec. 12. It featured a Tree Lighting ceremony at Reid's Corner, followed by a Lighted Christmas Parade. Following the parade, children and adults had the opportunity to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus. Hot chocolate and cookies were available at the Lawton Fire Hall. Buster's Hayrides was also available for attendees to take in. Photos courtesy/ Donna Dluge

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Megan Dooley returns to The Groovin' Grove for a live show

By James Windell

What do you do when you're a little girl and your father insists on singing Christmas carols when you are out shopping in department stores?

Of course, you will probably be embarrassed. And you might wish he would stop. But if you are young Megan Dooley, you finally give up and start singing with him.

And once she joined in with her father she began to notice something surprising.

"I started noticing how it lightened up people's load," the Kalamazoo-based singer said in a recent interview. "I would see faces change. When we were singing Christmas carols people would smile and their sad faces would change into happier ones. I recognized then the power of music."

She said that her father is the reason why she plays and sings in front of audiences.

Dooley, who has been referred to as the "First Lady of The Kalamazoo Music Scene," will be performing at The Groovin' Grove in South Haven on Saturday, December 20, 2025.

Although her father sang in stores when they were Christmas shopping, he was an important influence in Dooley's life. "My whole family is musical," Dooley said. "My grandfather played guitar, my uncle also played the guitar, and my parents were incredible vocalists. They were always singing."

Although neither parent was a professional singer, they sang in groups and certainly encouraged her singing. "I grew up around singing all the time," she notes.

She also says that it was her father who taught her how to whistle – something she incorporates into her shows. "I've been whistling for several years, but I would have been doing it sooner if I had realized that people would like it. I didn't think it would go over very well when I first started out. But one day I just decided I didn't care if anyone else liked it because I liked it and I was going to try soloing with my whistling. And people loved it."

Something else that is a highlight of her shows is her wide repertoire. Her strength as a singer lies in her ability to bridge eras as she can move seamlessly from Fats Waller to Tom Waits and from Bessy Smith to Edith Piaf. She explains this by joking that she has "genre ADD." However, there is also another explanation.

"I love Fats Waller, but I'm very interested in prohibition-era music and jazz," she explains. "That music has so much character and is fun. The songs from that era are really diverse in terms of subject matter and styles. I'm a student of history so I like to research songs and I enjoy finding old, interesting songs that people might have forgotten about."

However, she also writes songs and her originals are sprinkled through every performance. And since her Groovin' Grove show will be during the Christmas holiday season, she will sing be Christmas songs too.

Dooley will perform her solo show from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at The Groovin' Grove, 72040 M-43, South Haven. For more information, visit The Groovin' Grove live music schedule at https://thegroovingrove.com/live-music-schedule

Christmas stories read by South Haven writers

By James Windell

Local writers and members of South Haven Writers shared original Christmas stories and cookies in what has become an annual event.

Reading their own short stories, nine members of the South Haven Writers, South Haven's writing group, entertained family and friends at their last monthly meeting of the year at the South Haven Memorial Library on Friday, December 12, 2025.

Led by Bryan Lundgren, who refers to himself as facilitator rather than president of the group that was founded in 2007 by Joan Wendland, the feedback for the writers who read their short works was knowing nods, outright laughter, and warm applause. Although the stories and short essays were sometimes poignant and sweet and sometimes funny and ironic, all were read by their authors – most wearing Christmas sweaters or Santa Claus caps. All had gained confidence in reading their work in public by attending regular meetings of South Haven Writers.

"At every meeting we do what call read arounds," Lundgren, who has been a part of Southy Haven Writers for more than 10 years, said during a cookie break in the meeting. "We have a rule of positive comments only."

Lundgren, who has published hundreds of newsletter article, said that he belongs to another writers group that takes a different approach. "They really beat you up," he said, "and I don't like that. We are all adults here and we learn by listening."

Lundgren said that by being a member of the group he's become a better writer and now even feels comfortable writing poetry. "When I first joined the group, I was an engineer and I didn't do poetry," he remarked. "Now I do poetry because certain things are better expressed by poetry."

He went on to say that about half of the regular members of the group have had their work published.

Lundgren points out that new members are always welcome and anyone can come to a meeting and participate – either by listening to others read their new work or by offering encouragement to budding authors.

"Every month I offer a theme people can write about," Lundgren said. "They can write a short piece about this theme or just work on their own thing."

South Haven Writers meets monthly (except from June to August) and their next meeting is at 1:00 pm on January 23, 2026 in the Community Room of the South Haven Memorial Library, 314 Broadway, South Haven.

Decatur Christmas dinner planned

DECATUR – A Christmas Day Dinner for community protectors – police, fire, EMS, corrections, road crews and veterans, will be held Thursday, Dec. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Decatur VFW Post 6248.

For pick up orders, call ahead at (269) 423-7454. To volunteer for the event, contact Kevin Conklin at (269) 506-9384.

Garland appointed to Paw Paw Township Planning Commission

PAW PAW - During a brief Paw Township Board meeting Dec. 8, Adam Garland was appointed to fill the term of Ken Bowditch on the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission, ending Dec. 31, 2027. Also reappointed to the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission were Chad Learned and Phil Hover, with terms ending Dec. 31, 2028.

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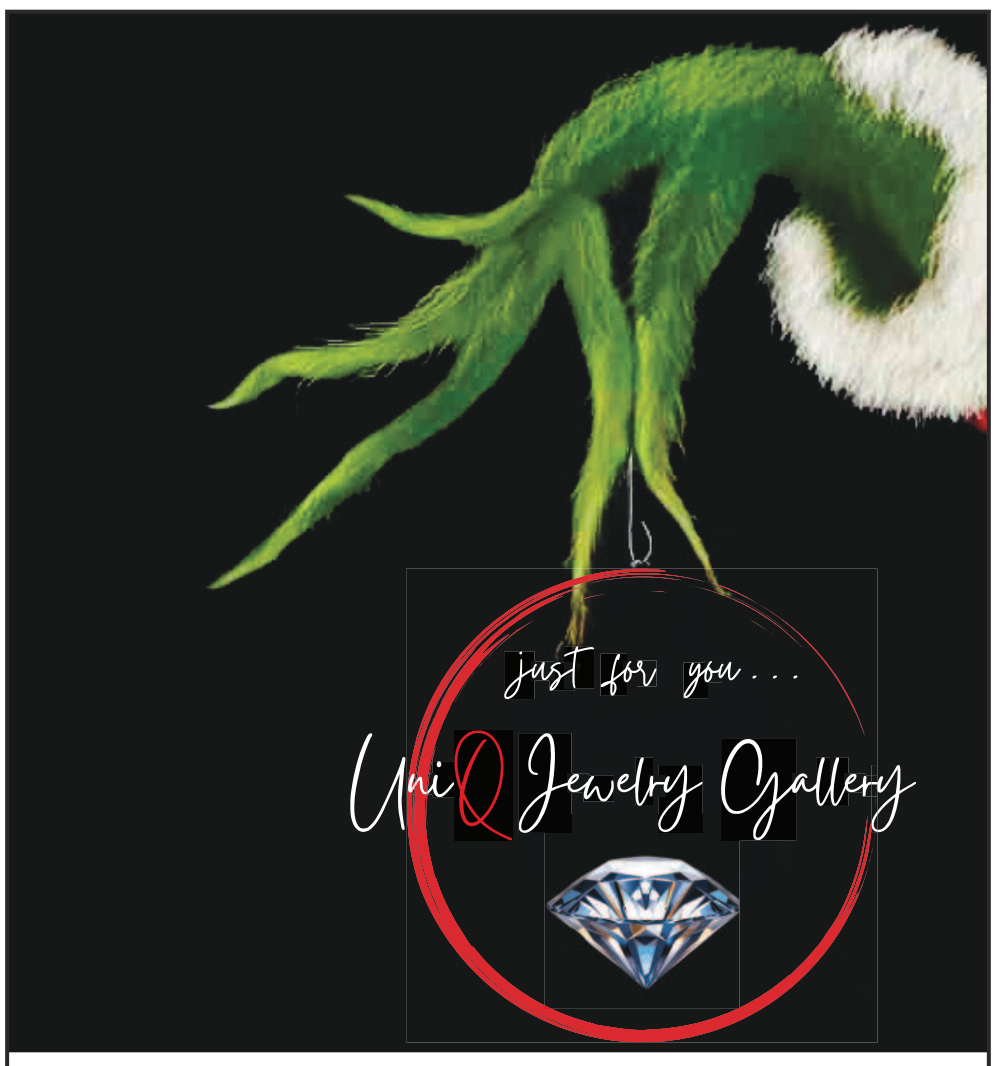

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VIEWPOINT

We Need The Good News of Christmas

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

I was searching for words that would express an uplifting spirit this Christmas season. Too many of us, my self-included, consider the holiday season to be a distraction rather than a time to rejoice. Well my friend, Glenn Mollette happened to send me this piece while I was searching and lo and behold, after reading, I came to the conclusion that this is the season for joy and thankfulness. I must partake in it, because being happy and thankful is contagious, and I would like everyone to share that happiness this holiday season. Read on and focus on good things and cast aside the bad.

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We never get a break from bad news. In recent days we have heard of people being killed at a Hanukkah celebration in Australia. There have been more school shootings from Brown University to Kentucky State University. Russia continues to bomb Ukraine and groceries continue to assault Americans' pocketbooks.

Yet, at Christmas time the overriding theme is good news. In a world of so much bad news comes the holiday of good news. The angel who appeared to the Shepherds who were watching their flock said, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord," Luke 2:10-11.

The central person of the good news is Jesus. He is the one the angels celebrated. His birth gave them reason to appear and make the wonderful announcement that brought joy to the shepherds and all who would be impacted by the birth of Jesus.

This Christmas you are probably one of many who welcomes good news. Maybe you have buried a wife, a husband or a child. At times, the loneliness and grief are unbearable and you wonder how you will ever survive your missing loved one. People are suffering financial stress from the cost of everyday living Sickness invades our lives at one time or another impacting us or someone we love. Life is filled with stressful situations that often rob us of peace.

The good news of Christmas is God has come in the flesh to love us, walk with us and bring joy that nothing or no one else can give. Jesus said "My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, but give I unto you," John 14:27.

This Christmas there is much to focus on. You can spend your day focused on the Democrats or the Republicans. You can focus on our President or members of Congress. You can focus on all that you do not have or all that you wish you did not have. You can focus on your situation, your age, your health or you can focus on everyone else. Will this bring you joy?

Do not focus on regrets. Do not focus on mistakes, problems, old habits or sins. Jesus came to help us overcome all of these and more. Because of his life, death and resurrection we have a Savior who has given us every reason to look up and forward instead of down and back.

Jesus told his disciples in John 16:33, "Take heart, I have overcome the world."

While the media is filled with bad news, take heart, the message of Christmas is good news. Therefore, as Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." May we all be filled with the good news of the great story of Christmas.

Sheriff's office dispatchers take 96,000 calls through November

"In the month of November, Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies handled 835 calls for service, putting the total for the year at 9,388. Deputies made 301 traffic stops in November, putting the total for the year at 4,307. Dispatchers took 7,690 phone calls in November, putting the total for the year at 96,433. Out of the calls for the year, 35,352 were 911 calls. Fun fact, November has been the slowest call volume for dispatchers at that number and July was the busiest with 10,501 calls," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

A deputy on patrol was attempting to catch up to a vehicle in Bloomingdale Township when the suspect vehicle lost control and went into a ditch. The driver took off on foot but was quickly taken into custody for the incident and had a warrant for his arrest. The other two occupants of the vehicle were checked and had warrants for their arrest. The front seat passenger was also charged with possession of methamphetamine. All three were transported and lodged at the Van Buren County Jail.

"Deputies are actively investigating a sextortion case. The victim met the suspect on a dating app, and screenshots were shared. The victim is now being exploited in this case. Once the case is complete and all the information is obtained from the case, a warrant will be sought on the suspect," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Felony warrants were obtained for the two suspects who cut down a walnut tree at a public access in Bloomingdale Township," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies are participating in the OHSP (Office of Highway Safety Planning) grant to target drivers under the influence of alcohol/drugs this month. Deputies will be on overtime with reimbursement through the program to work extra hours and days to help combat intoxicated drivers.

Deputies handled a major fraud case. The victim had $10,000 transferred out of a bank account. "The bank employees worked with our office and the victim very professionally in this case. Suspects were identified and three-count felony warrants were issued on the suspects for fraud withdraw/transaction, computer-fraud access-More than $10,000, less than $20,000, and computer-use to do crime. The two suspects are now going to be held accountable for their actions. Great job by everyone involved in investigating this case," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Dispatch Center was drawn for a random audit conducted by the State 911 Office Certification Sub-Committee. The audit includes a financial review, site visit, and overall evaluation of all aspects of the operations of our dispatch center. The preliminary draft report came back highlighting several notable findings indicating the "Level of Excellence and Professionalism Exhibited Here." Other items noted were the "Team Cohesion," "High Dispatcher Morale," "Secure & Professional Environment," and "Commitment to Public Safety." The final report will be released once approved by the Certification Sub-Committee and then the State 911 Committee. Once again, cannot say enough good things about our dispatchers and all the employees here at the Sheriff's Office. This once again is another example of what I am always saying about our office and staff. A huge shout out to the dispatchers on the report and for making our dispatch center what it is today," said Sheriff Abbott.

"We put our new canine into service this week after Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie Graduated from their Training Together. K-9 Charlie is a 1 ½ old German Shepard from Poland. We are all very excited to add him to our team and have no doubt the two of them will be rock stars in their new roles here," said Sheriff Abbott

Where Can I Get a Copy of the Beacon?

James Windell

"I couldn't find the South Haven Beacon at my usual pickup spot? Where can I get it?"

"Where's a place near me I can get a copy of this week's Beacon?"

"Where's the best place to find the Beacon?"

As the correspondent reporting the South Haven news for the South Haven Beacon, people assume I know where they can grab a copy of the Beacon. Since most people haven't met or had contact with Mike Wilcox, the Publisher of the Beacon, if there's a problem or a concern then I'm the one who hears about it.

If the Beacon shows up late or isn't in the spot they usually find it, I hear about it. That happens to my wife, Jane, as well. When she agreed for better or for worse, she didn't know that one day that would mean she would be expected to know how to locate a copy of the Beacon. But she takes her role as wife of the South Haven Correspondent seriously. So, she has been known to go looking for a copy of the newspaper to hand deliver to people.

Not only do we get asked some variation of the questions at the beginning of this column at least once a week, but we hear from many people about where they usually find a copy of the paper. And we keep a list of where the paper has been spotted in our heads.

Of course, some readers subscribe to the online edition of the Beacon. That solves the problem of locating a physical copy of the paper – and it's only $20 a year.

But where can you find the Beacon? Here's what we tell people:

There's a box where the Beacon, which is always free, is deposited every week. That box is on Phoenix Street between the Dimitridon Studios Rock Shop at 418 Phoenix and the parking lot for Consumers Credit Union in downtown South Haven. But also downtown, the paper is dropped off at City Hall, across Phoenix Street at Visit South, at Combs Barber shop at 428 Phoenix, and at Harbor Light Brewery at 516 Phoenix. In addition, it can be found at Sweet Haven Candy shop at 411 Phoenix and at Murphy's Antique Mall at 321 Center Street.

Copies are delivered to the South Haven Memorial Library and to My Town Ace Hardware at 530 Huron Street. The Bean Box, at 225 Broadway also gets copies delivered.

On Blue Star Highway, the paper is delivered to the lobby of the Police and Fire Department, Bronson Hospital, Al-Van Humane Society Rescued Treasures resale shop, and at South Haven Township offices at the corner of Blue Star Highway and 140.

Back to Phoenix and going east out of the downtown area, copies can usually be found at Walgreens at 1100 Phoenix and at Three Blondes Brewing, 1875 Phoenix.

Two other place we've seen it is the Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 2959 73rd Street and at Meijer.

I'm sure it might get delivered to other places. If so, let us know. We'll add other pick up locations to our list so we are prepared for the next time someone asks, "Where can I get a copy of this week's Beacon?"

THE COURIER LEADER
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SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 657-3072 • wilcoxnewspapers.com

Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod & James Windell
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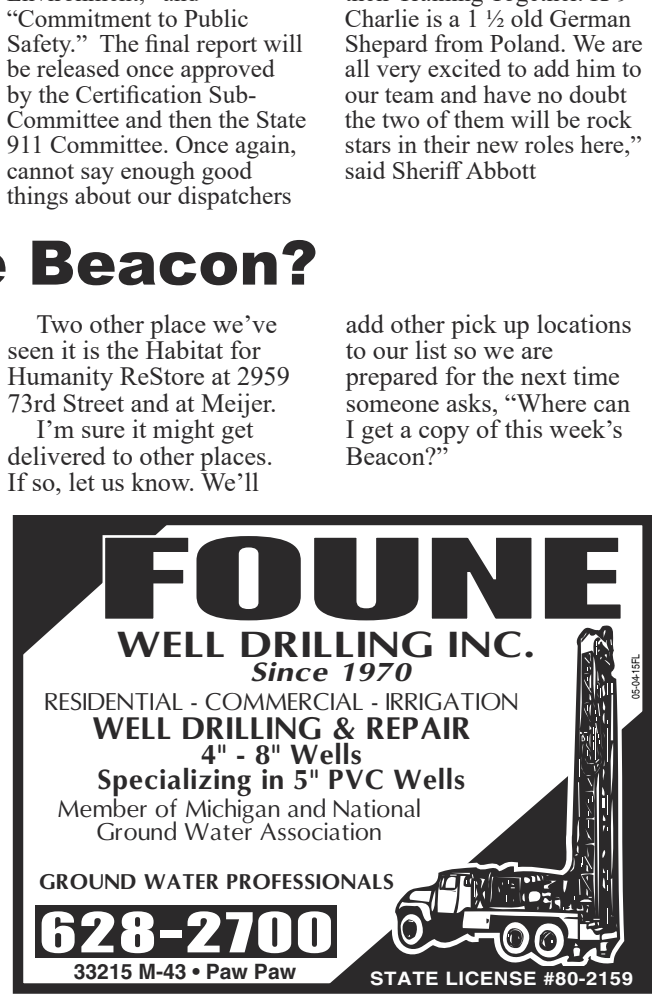

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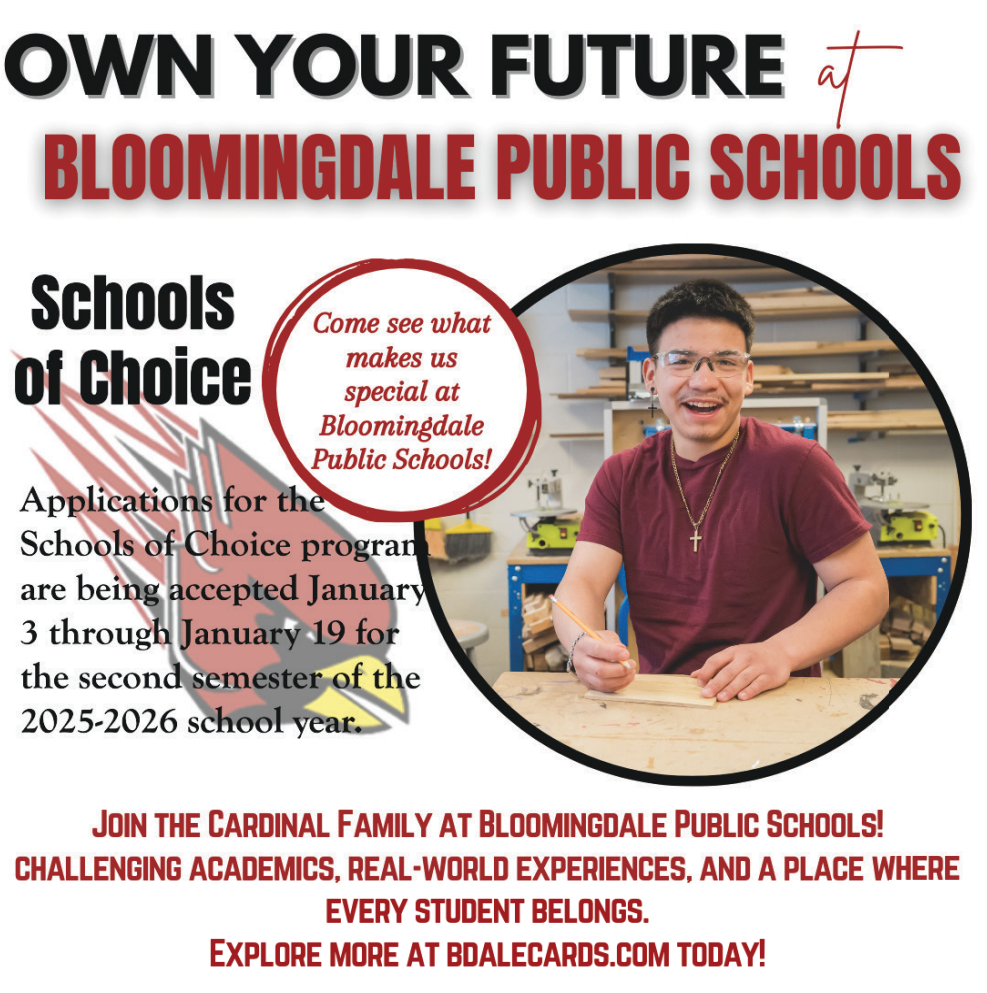
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Mattawan wrestlers have a busy weekend

Mattawan girl wrestlers are off to a good start.

It was busy week for Mattawan wrestlers.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GULL LAKE — This weekend, the Wildcat wrestlers were busy over at Gull Lake, kicking things off Friday night with the JV tournament, where they had multiple wrestlers place in the top four.

JV placers were: Landen Holland – 2nd Place; Cam Overley – 4th Place; Teddy Neuman – 4th Place; Daniel Ashbaugh – 4th Place.

Saturday – Boys Varsity

The boys varsity team competed against 17 teams and finished a strong 6th place overall. Leading the way were: Bubbie Schoonbeck – Champion (190); Pedro Carcedo – 2nd Place (113); Ben Williamson – 3rd Place (132); Zack Miller – 3rd Place (150); Remi Schoonbeck – 4th Place (138); Oliver Davis – 4th Place (285)

Sunday – Girls Varsity

The girls varsity team competed against 28 teams and finished an impressive eighth place overall.

Girls Varsity Placers

Haylee Schoonbeck – Champion (170); Cori Grimm – Champion (130) Leah Wilkins – 4th Place (125 lbs)

"Congratulations to all of our wrestlers on an outstanding weekend," a Mattawan coach said.

Gobles wrestlers take fourth

Gobles wrestlers have been racking up the medals lately.

By John Raffel

GOBLES — Gobles wrestlers finished with four placers at the Gull Lake Blue Devil Invite on Saturday.

Finn Carlin and Devin Doorlag led the team with 11 takedowns. Finn led the team with three pins and tech Tech Falls.

"Finn Carlin and Devin Doorlag both earned Gold in their respective weight classes," coach Erin Carlin said. "The results speak for themselves as Finn and Devin went into the tournament with the right mindset and walked out as weight class champions. Also, Aiden Dukes earned Silver and Bryce Doorlag earned Bronze. Aiden was also strong on the attack as he had 10 takedowns and two pins. Bricye jimpressed as a freshman with 4 wins."

Gobles squares of in SAC Duels Action vs Watervliet and Coloma at Watervliet

Conference and overall record is 1-1.

"Dominic Redaway, Colton Colingsworth, and Hunter Piper also wrestled strong at the Blue Devil Invite.

Each went 3-2 and had the mindset to overcome adversity as they finished in the top half of their weight class brackets."

Gobles girls wrestlers off to good start

Girls wrestling team is off to a good start.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Coach Dan Morris points out this is Gobles; second year with an all-girls wrestling team.

On Sunday Dec. 14, Gobles we traveled to Gull Lake High School to compete in their Girls Blue Devil Classic.

"Some of the top talents in the area were present and our girls were gritty through the whole day," Morris said. "Due to injury, we only had four of our five girls able to compete but still managed to take 16th out of 28 schools.

Sophomore Alyssa Sparks wrestled at 105 pound and went toe to toe with some of the toughest girls in the area.

"Falling victim to pin in her first match to a strong opponent from Hastings, she hit a mental reset and came back to pin her next opponent in 35 seconds. Her last match of the day she wrestled one of Plainwell's best wrestlers but came up short."

Junior Freedom Morris started her day off with a win over a faster opponent from Mattawan.

"They went back and forth for the first two periods with Freedom ending the match by pin. Her second match was even tougher against Olivet's 110 pounder. "She fought well, hit the best head and arm reversal we've seen, but got stuck in a tough pin at the end. She bounced back in her next match to seal the deal by pinning her opponent in a cradle after a handful of great takedowns. Losing her last match of the day, she earned a fourth-place medal.

"Junior Ashlyn Myers is having a great start to her first season wrestling. She pinned her first opponent in 45 seconds. Her second match of the day was against last year's state runner up from Three Rivers. She wrestled well but fell victim to pin. She then won her next two matches, securing a 6th place finish. Ashlyn continues to grow and make strides in the right direction every day. She is also currently tied for first place for takedowns on the girl's team."

Morris added:

"Sophomore Jasmine Gutierrez is also in her first year wrestling with the Gobles team. After losing her first match to her opponent from Otsego, she bounced back to win three matches in a row, all by pin. In her last match of the day she fell victim to pin by a more experienced wrestler from Portage Northern earning her a 5th place finish. Jasmine will be a force to be reckoned with in the coming weeks."

The Girls hit the mats again in Brandywine this upcoming Saturday 12/20.

Mattawan hockey team undefeated

By John Raffel

The Mattawan high school Hockey Team continued its undefeated season last week to move to 13-0.

On Thursday Dec. 11, the Wildcats skated past the Kalamazoo United 7-1 at Wings Event Center.

George Nulty had two goals in the first period as the Cats jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Hunter Enrici netted two goals and Gavin Wiech got the win in net in a long game defined by 21 penalties.

Then on Friday night, the Cats defeated the Grand Haven Buccaneers 4-2 on Teddy Bear/Toys for Tots night.

The Bucs opened the scoring just 2:20 into the game, but the Teddy bears came flying onto the ice after Griffin Davis scored 3 minutes later. The momentum built on a shorthanded Wildcat goal in the 2nd period from Royce Teall, leading to the game winner in the 3rd from Ben Edington.

Next up, it's the D1 No. 8 ranked Capital City Capitals on Wednesday, December 17th - 5:15 at Wings Event Center Arena.

Prior to the Christmas break, Mattawan will play Livonia Stevenson in the East vs. West Showcase at Michigan State University's Munn Arena on Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.

Mattawan girls defeat Paw Paw

By John Raffel

MATTAWAN — Mattawan tipped off the 2025-26 girls basketball campaign at home with a 61-44 win over Paw Paw on Dec. 8.

Mattawan jumped out to a 20-9 first quarter lead led by Caitlin Ryan's six points.

Stella Shaefer led Paw Paw with 29 points including 10 second quarter points to make the score 33-23 at half.

Charlotte Douglass scored nine third-quarter points to extend the Mattawan lead to 46-29 at the end of three.

Shaefer had 13 fourth quarter points, including 3 threes, but Mattawan was able to hold off the Red Wolves 61-44.

Douglass led Mattawan with 22, followed by Ryan's 10 points, seven assists and five steals. Annemarie Pelak scored nine and had nine rebounds and Savannah Waterlander 8 to help lead Mattawan to the season opening win.

On Tuesday, December 9 at Mattawan, Mattawan fell to Portage Northern 36-32 on a cold shooting night for both teams. Maliyah Flowers led PN with 17 points including eight in the second quarter. PN extended its lead to 32-20 before Mattawan rallied to make it 35-32 with under two minutes remaining. Charlotte Douglass led Mattawan with 12 points and 14 rebounds, while Chloe Nellenbach had 7. Caitlin Ryan had 9 steals on the night.

Friday, December 12 at Battle Creek Central, Mattawan jumped out to an early 15-8 lead after one-quarter led by Caitlin Ryan's six 1st quarter points, but BC Central responded with a 14-8 second quarter. The second half was a one-possession game throughout, until K. Guest extended the lead to four on free throws with under a minute left to conclude the scoring for both teams, BCC won 41-37.

Caitlin Ryan (M) led all scorers with 14 points followed by Taylor Bernardi's 8 points. BC Central was led by Mosley and Caldwell with 10 points apiece.

Mattawan is now 1-2 (0-2 in league) and hosts Berrien Springs and St. Joe this week.

Lawrence beats Eau Claire girls

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence's girls basketball team won 47-23 over Eau Claire in girls basketball action on dec. 9 to open the seaosn.

(Junior) Colleen McCaw had 24 points and (Senior) Carolina Mancera had 16 points for Lawerence which lost 49-16 to Centreville on Dec., 12. Lawrence was set to play Covert on Dec. 15 at home and was to be at Bloomingale on Dec. 16 and at Marcellus on Dec. 19.

The Lawrence boys team is off to a 3-2 start after beating Covert 66-8 on Dec. 15.

Covert beat Athens 55-31 on Dec. 1 and Decatur 50-39 on dec. 5.

Lawrence lost to Bangor 57-29 on Dec. 9 and 58-39 to Cenrewville on Dec. 12.

Lawrence was set to be home on Dec. 16 with Bloomingdale and will be at Marcellus on Dec. 19.

Paw Paw wrestlers 2-0

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's wrestling team was 0-2 at a quad meet at Bronson on Dec. 10

Paw Paw lost 57-20 to Bronson and 48-33 to Decatur.

Micah Brown, Carter Thompson, Kolby Armiljo, Brady Nix were winners for Paw Paw against Bronson.

Aaron Quilles, Tyler Pentland, Victor Armiljo, Gunner Gal Colby Barnett, James Carington and Lucas Turanzas lost their matches.

Against Decatur, Paw Paw winners were Aaron Quiles, Micah Brown, Carter Thompson, Kolby Armiljo, Victor Armiljo and Gunner Gale.

Bangor falls to Marcellus

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's girls basketball team fell to Marcellus 51-39 in action on Dec.. 11.

Bangor was 1-1 overall prior to a scheduled home game on Dec. 16 with White Pigeon.

Bangor is 0-1 in the Southwest 10 Conference while Marcellus is 1-0.

Bangor scored 15 points in the first quarter against Marcellus, five in the second, 12 in the third and seven in the fourth.

Alexis Wisnewski had three triples and 11 points. Isabelle Horvath had nine points, Madison Lennos had six points.

Lennox had five rebounds. Horvath and Izzy Macado had three apiece. Lexi Wisnewiski had four steals and Taylor Gardner had two. Wisniewski had four assists.

Bangor plays at Decatur on Dec. 18.

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PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING
December 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order by Supervisor Palenick 6:00 P.M.
Board Members Present: Thomas Palenick, Dennis Reynolds, Rebecca Payne
Absent: James DeGroff, Lisa Zinkil
Guest Present: Kenny Clevenger.
Approved November 10th, 2025, meeting minutes.
Approved the appointment of Adam Garland, Phil Hover, and Chad Learned to the PC.
Meeting Adjourned 7:24 P.M.

Rebecca F. Payne, Clerk

Porter Township
Regular Meeting
November 12, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and four guests.

- Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 8, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Smith to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Bitely to approve the draft audit and financial reports for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 as presented by Seber Tans. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Bitely to approve Supervisor Oxley's recommendation to reappoint Doug Noble Jr to the Planning Commission for a partial term to end January 2028. Voice call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve Supervisor Oxley's recommendation to reappoint John Miller to the Planning Commission for a partial term to end January 2027. Voice call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Decedent, **SALLY BRASFIELD,** whose last known address was 10101 Compton Drive, South Haven, MI 49090, died November 8, 2025. There is no Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.
Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to **CHERYLL. REHFELD and CURTIS D. BRASFIELD, CO-TRUSTEES OF THE DONALD BRASFIELD AND SALLY BRASFIELD REVOCABLE TRUST DATED DECEMBER 27, 2018,** within four months after the date of this publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: December 5, 2025

Cheryl L. Rehfeld and Curtis D. Brasfield,
Co-Trustees of The Donald Brasfield and Sally Brasfield Revocable Trust
Dated: December 27, 2018
12940 76th Street
South Haven, MI 49090

Attorney for Co-Trustees:
Andrew W. Barnes (P70571)
Butzel Long, P.C.
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 287-2010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Van Buren COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2023 1129 DE
and JUDGE
Court address 212 Paw Paw Street, Michigan 49079
Court phone no.269-657-8225
Estate of Herb Fricko aka Herbert H. Fricko aka Herbert Henry Fricko, Deceased Date of Birth:*06-05-1956

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Herb Fricko aka Herbert H. Fricko aka Herbert Henry Fricko,** died **April 22, 2023**.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Marietta Agnes Fricko,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 8, 2025

Attorney
Donald M. Thinschmidt
P24184
25058 44th Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006
269-343-1208
Personal Representative:
Marietta Agnes Fricko
200 Turwill Lane
Mattawan, Michigan 49071
269-330-8994

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Van Buren COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025 1189 DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Court address 212 Paw Paw Street, Michigan 49079
Court phone no.269-657-8225
Estate of William H. Woodman, Date of Birth: September 20,1923

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **William H. Woodman,** died **September 29, 2018**.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Linda A. Toliusis and James C. Woodman,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 18, 2025

Attorney
William B. Millard P39054
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
269-343-2106
Personal Representative(s):
Linda A. Toliusis
42246 Paw Paw Road,
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

James C. Woodman
62467 M-51 Highway,
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Van Buren COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025 1191 DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Court address 212 Paw Paw Street, Michigan 49079
Court phone no.269-657-8225
Estate of Jacqueline Ruth Teynolds-Hayward, Date of Birth: January 14, 1962

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Jacqueline Ruth Teynolds-Hayward,** died **October 25,2025**.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Brian R.R. Hayward,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 18, 2025

Attorney
William K. Kriekard P39475
8051 Moorsbridge Road
Portage, MI 49024
269-323-3400
Personal Representative(s):
Brian R.R. Hayward
8390 Initerlochen Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-913-2237

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Van Buren COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025 1181 DE
Court address 212 Paw Paw Street, Michigan 49079
Court phone no.269-657-8225
Estate of Maria Elizabeth DiPrima, Date of Birth: March 30,1950

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Maria Elizabeth DiPrima,** died **December 10,2024**.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Gould Law** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 114 E. Main Street, Suite 218, Owosso, Michigan 48867 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 18, 2025

Attorney
Scott J. Gould P76101
114 E. Main Street, Suite 218,
Owosso, Michigan 48867
Personal Representative(s):
Aaon DiPrima
201 N. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC v. Travis Schuster; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 12/18/2025; Atty File #: 504518L03; Insurer: (unknown)
Van Buren County Circuit Court Case No. 25-074638-CH
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE

The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 5th of February, 2026 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: real property situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, described as Beginning at a point on the North and South 1/4 line of said Section, which is South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East, 600.00 feet from the center of said Section 8, said beginning point being North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West, 2034.10 feet from the South 1/4 post of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East along said 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds West parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West parallel with said North and South 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds East parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet to the point of beginning Tax Parcel ID: 80-16-008-014-10 More commonly known as: 78560 M 40 Lawton, MI 49065 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: 12/18/2025 Trott Law, P.C.
1580064

(12-18)(01-22)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James L Wellington; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 12/18/2025; Atty File #: 527183F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James L. Willington a single man
Original Mortgagee: FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION , A SUBSIDIARY OFINDYMAC BANK, F.S.B.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1
Date of Mortgage: January 8, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 19, 2007
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $138,267.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Geneva, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest fractional 1/4 of Section 1, Town 1 South, Range 16 West, According to the Government Survey thereof; thence North on the West Section line, 6 rods; thence East 11 rods; thence South 6 rods to the East and West 1/4 line; thence West on same to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 02045 County Road 681, Grand Junction, MI 49056-9587
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 18, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy,
Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1579893

(12-18)(01-08)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Aleene Russ; Atty: KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO - KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO; 1st Pub: 12/18/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF LIEN AGAINST CONDOMINIUM UNIT IN THE LIGHTHOUSE VILLAGE AT LIFESTYLES OF SOUTH HAVEN CONDOMINIUM
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the certain Lien Against Condominium Unit in the Lighthouse Village at Lifestyles of South Haven Condominium ("Lien") will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises (as defined below) at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at January 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than ninety (90) days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the lien at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lighthouse Village at Lifestyles of South Haven Condominium Association ("Association") recorded the aforementioned Lien, dated September 9, 2024, against the premises owned by Aleene Russ, a single woman ("Owner"), which address is 72177 Beacon Court, Unit 37, South Haven, Michigan 49090 (the "Premises"). The Premises is a Unit in the Lighthouse Village at Lifestyles of South Haven Condominium. The Lien was recorded on September 9, 2024, in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, at Liber 1769, Page 818. As of December 18, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Lien is the sum of Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty and 00/100 Dollars ($7,140.00), including interest and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Lien which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Condominium Bylaws and under Section 108 of the Michigan Condominium Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Lien will be foreclosed by sale of the Premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Van Buren County Courthouse, which address is 212 East Paw Paw Street, 2nd Floor, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, State of Michigan, on January 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The Premises is situated in the Township of South Haven, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: Unit 37, Lighthouse Village at Lifestyles of South Haven Condominium, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 1453 on Page 859 inclusive, and amendments thereto and designated as Van Buren County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 102, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of Public Acts of 1978, as amended. Premises Address: 72177 Beacon Court, Unit 37, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Premises Tax ID: 80-17-171-037-00 If the Premises is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the Premises is abandoned, in which case the redemption period may be shortened in accordance with Michigan law. If the Premises is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Owner and any other person liable on the Lien will be held responsible to the person who buys the Premises at the foreclosure sale or to the Lien holder for damaging the Premises during the redemption period. Dated: December 18, 2025 LIEN HOLDER: LIGHTHOUSE VILLAGE AT LIFESTYLES OF SOUTH HAVEN CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION c/o LASR ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT ATTN: KATELYN SCOFIELD-STANFILL 764 LAGRANGE SOUTH HAVEN MI 49090 Attorneys for the Lighthouse Village at Lifestyles of South Haven Condominium Association: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. By: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 4900

(12-18)(01-08)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Nancy E Reinhardt; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 12/11/2025; Atty File #: 14MI00682-5; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Nancy E. Reinhardt, single to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 26, 2006, and recorded on November 7, 2006, in Liber 1472, Page 464, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-22 by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 04, 2012 and recorded May 14, 2012 in Liber 1567, Page 462, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Two and 53/100 ($149,862.53) including interest at the rate of 3.00000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Almena, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning on the North line of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 13 West at a point 430.00 feet South 88 degrees 45 minutes 57 seconds West of the Northeast corner of the Section; thence South 88 degrees 45 minutes 57 seconds West on the Section line, 153 feet; thence South 01 degrees 10 minutes 20 seconds East parallel with the East Section line, 462.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 45 minutes 57 seconds East 153.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 10 minutes 20 seconds West 462.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 22185 44TH AVE, MATTAWAN, MI 49071 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: December 11, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-22 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 14MI00682-5

(12-11)(01-01)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Terry M. Gordnier; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 12/11/2025; Atty File #: 526346F01; Insurer: (unkown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Terry M. Gordnier, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1
Date of Mortgage: December 31, 2013
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 13, 2014
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $75,567.57
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Almena, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the West Quarter Post of Section 22 Town 2 South Range 13 West; thence East on the East and West quarter line 163 feet; thence South 00 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds West 209 feet; thence West 163 feet to the West Section line; thence North 00 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East on same to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 27939 38th Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9429
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 11, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy,
Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1579567

(12-11)(01-01)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James Marble; Atty: Johnson, Blumberg, and Associates - Johnson, Blumberg, and Associates ; 1st Pub: 12/11/2025; Atty File #: MI 25 6843; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James Marble, a single man, whose address is 410 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, being a mortgage dated February 6, 2024, and recorded on February 13, 2024 in Liber 1761 Page 885, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 25, 2025 and recorded on November 26, 2025 in Liber 1786 Page 619, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEEN AND 07/100 DOLLARS ($89,416.07). Said premises are situated in the Village of Paw Paw, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 6 AND THE WEST 20 FEET OF LOT 7, BLOCK 29, THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER E OF DEEDS, PAGE 566, VAN BUREN COUNTY. Street Address: 410 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE.
Dated: December 11, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6843

(12-11)(01-01)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: 7338 HARDISTY LLC; Atty: ROBERTSON ANSCHUT SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS - ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS; 1st Pub: 12/11/2025; Atty File #: 25-303401; Insurer: (unknown)
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name of the mortgagor: Adam Wright, as Manager of 7338 Hardisty LLC. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by 7338 HARDISTY LLC, to INVESTOR MORTGAGE FINANCE LLC, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated June 30, 2022, and recorded on July 12, 2022, in Liber 1740 Page 708 in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds. Said mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee through mesne assignments to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-TIKI SERIES VI TRUST, as documented by an assignment of mortgage dated September 3, 2025, and recorded on October 31, 2025, in Liber 1785 Page 578 in the VAN BUREN County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $624,549.83. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within VAN BUREN County, Michigan on January 08, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Said premises are located in the city of GOBLES in VAN BUREN County, Michigan and are described as: SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 14, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 14; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION, 660.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 660.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION, 660.00 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 14; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, 660.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Property Address: 8221 26TH ST. GOBLES MI, 49055 Tax ID No. 80-15-014-011-02 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during

Continues on page 9

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page 8

the redemption period. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-TIKI SERIES VI TRUST, Mortgagee/ Assignee December 11th, 2025 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(12-11)(01-01)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Mary Dykstra; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 12/4/2025; Atty File #: 515603F02; Insurer: (unknown) Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Marvin D. Dykstra, a married man and Mary L. Dykstra, a married woman husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Washington Mortgage Company, a Michigan Corporation
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee in Trust for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust Inc., asset backed pass through certificates series 2003-HE3
Date of Mortgage: May 14, 1999
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 20, 1999
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $15,037.35
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Almena, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 11, Green Acres, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats, on Page 38 in Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 39388 Sandyridge Cir, Mattawan, MI 49071-9750
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 4, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1578751

(12-04)(12-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Sawyer Stephan Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-013829; Insurer: GNMA

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sawyer Stephan Brown, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 8, 2021 and recorded October 21, 2021 in Liber 1727, Page 827 Van Buren County Records, Michigan, and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded November 21, 2025 in Liber 1786, Page 457 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Five and 58/100 Dollars ($108,975.58).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Village of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 102 of VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 25 of Deeds on Page 10, in the Office for the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County Records; thence South 53 feet; thence West 66 feet; thence North 53 feet; thence East 66 feet to the place of beginning.
210 N Van Buren Street, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 27, 2025
File No. 25-013829
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Chelsea Nichole Selvidge; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-003295-1; Insurer: (unknown)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chelsea Nichole Selvidge and Joshua Allen Beebe, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank
Date of mortgage: May 21, 2024 Recorded on May 31, 2024, Liber 1766, on Page 422, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 28/100 Dollars ($189,728.28) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as:
BEGINNING ON THE CENTER LINE OF MAIN STREET AT A POINT 297 FEET EASTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE OF SECTION; THENCE NORTH 484.4 FEET; THENCE WEST 40 FEET; THENCE SOUTH TO THE CENTER LINE OF SAID STREET; THENCE EASTERLY TO BEGINNING, EXCEPT MAIN STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, ALL BEING IN SECTION 16 TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST.
Commonly known as 519 W Main Street, Hartford, MI 49057
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1578606

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Sandra E. McGwin-Kelly; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-011907; Insurer: (unknown)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kevin Jon Kelly and Sandra E. McGwin-Kelly, husband and wife, to Chemical Bank Shoreline, Mortgagee, dated June 18, 2001 and recorded June 25, 2001 in Liber 1334, Page 313 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CSMC 2021-RPL6 Trust, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Seven and 95/100 Dollars ($78,677.95).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Arlington, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST.
26508 52nd St, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 27, 2025
File No. 25-011907
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Lisa Breur; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-29362; Insurer: (unknown)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Lisa Breur and Timothy Breur to Equity Prime Mortgage LLC dated September 22, 2021 and recorded September 27, 2021 in Liber 1726 at Page 491, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $169,151.31. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lot 9, Block 3, Original Plat of the Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat in Liber G of Plats, Page 444, Van Buren County Records. Parcel ID No(s).: 80-46-010-033-00 Said property is commonly known as 24238 Front Ave, Mattawan, MI 49071. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: November 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-29362

(11-27)(12-18)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANTWERP TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Antwerp Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing regarding the following appeal of a determination by the Zoning Administrator. Public comments on the matter are welcome.

Application
- Request: Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's determination that the operation of a police department practice shooting range is not permitted at the subject property.
- Zoning District: Agricultural & Open Space Residential (AG) Zoning District
- Location: 72nd Avenue
- Parcel Number: 80-02-031-011-00
- Owner/Applicant: Village of Lawton

Meeting and Hearing Information
- Location: Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Project Details: call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the ZBA Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Mattawan Consolidated Schools Campus Site & Athletic Improvements

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing to make some Technology Improvements for Mattawan Consolidated Schools football stadium pressbox. Commencement of work will be: June 2026 – August 14, 2026

AVB is performing multiple projects at Mattawan Consolidated Schools over the next 2 years.

Bid Information

Bid Information is available now:

Contact Amanda Peters for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications: apeters@avbinc.com 269-816-4418

All bidders must supply a bid bond, a notarized statement of familiar relationship & other required affidavits found on the district website.

A Pre-Bid Walk will take place on 12/22/2025 @ 9:00 a.m. Meet at the AVB Trailer on site at the project site address below.

Bids are due:

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 11:00 AM EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071 (ATTN Pam Stermer, CFO)

There will be a sealed public bid opening immediately following. Late bids will not be considered.

Project Location, Schedule

Mattawan Consolidated Schools
56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, MI 49071

Campus Site & Athletic Improvements Project – Pressbox AV:

June 2026 – August 14, 2026

Scopes of Work Bidding

Scopes of Work Include: 27.100 Technology

NOTICE OF ANTWERP TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The Antwerp Township Board approved an amendment to the Antwerp Township Zoning Ordinance, Table 12-14, to allow ground and wall signs on agricultural properties. Copies of the text amendment and the full Zoning Ordinance are available for review at the Township Hall during regular business hours at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071 (call 269-668-2615).

Planning Commission Public Hearing: November 5, 2025
Township Board Adoption: December 9, 2025
Publication Date: December 18, 2025
Effective Date: December 25, 2025

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing and Regular Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting will be held by the Village of Decatur ZBA on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Decatur Village Hall located at 114 North Phelps Street within the Village.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing and Special Board of Appeals Meeting include, in brief, the following:

1. Consider a variance request submitted by Mike and Mary Lyons for unaddressed property located on Gregory Terrace, Decatur, MI 49045 (Parcel ID: 80-43-050-013-00). The request seeks variance approval from 42-13 A, Accessory Buildings, Village of Decatur Zoning Ordinance.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested person concerning the requested variance to the Zoning Ordinance at the email address of the Village Clerk, at any time during regular business hours up to 12:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing and will further be received by the ZBA at the time of said hearing.

The Village of Decatur will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Village Clerk.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk/Treasurer,
mduncan@decaturmi.us
Decatur Village Hall
114 North Phelps St., Decatur, MI 49045

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